

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-74 (Cancelled).

75. (Currently Amended): ~~The recombinant vector according to claim 1, A recombinant screening, cloning, or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:~~

1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;

2) a selectable marker;

3) a reporter cassette comprising:

a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),

b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria,

upstream of the polylinker,

c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and

d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon,

wherein the coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker is a coding sequence derived from alkaline phosphatase *phoA* gene.

76-77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended): ~~The recombinant vector according to claim 1, A recombinant screening, cloning, or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:~~

1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;

2) a selectable marker;

3) a reporter cassette comprising:

a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),

b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria,

upstream of the polylinker,

c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and

d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon,

wherein the coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters which are contained in the same fragment is a coding sequence derived from Green Fluorescent Protein ("GFP") gene.

79. (Cancelled)

80. (Previously presented): ~~The recombinant vector according to claim 1, A recombinant screening, cloning, or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:~~

- 1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;
- 2) a selectable marker;
- 3) a reporter cassette comprising:
 - a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),
 - b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria, upstream of the polylinker,
 - c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and
 - d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon,

wherein the vector is a plasmid chosen from the following plasmids, which have been deposited at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes, Paris, France):

- a) pJVVEDa which was deposited at the CNCM under the No. I-1797, on 12 December 1996;
- b) pJVVEDb which was deposited at the CNCM under the No. I-1906, on 25 July 1997; and

c) pJVEDc which was deposited at the CNCM under the No. I-1799, on 12

December 1996.

81-84. (Cancelled)

85. (Previously presented): ~~The recombinant vector according to claim 83, A recombinant screening, cloning, or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:~~

1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;

2) a selectable marker;

3) a reporter cassette comprising:

a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),

b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria,

upstream of the polylinker,

c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and

d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon,

wherein the mycobacterium is *M. tuberculosis*, and

wherein the vector is a plasmid chosen from the following plasmids which have been deposited at the CNCM:

- a) p6D7, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1814;
- b) p5A3, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1815;
- c) p5F6, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1816;
- d) p2A29, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1817,
- e) pDP428, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1818,
- f) p5B5, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1819,
- g) p1C7, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1820,
- h) p2D7, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1821,
- i) p1B7, which was deposited on 31 January 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1843,
- j) pJVED/*M. tuberculosis*, which was deposited on 25 July 1997 at the CNCM under the No. I-1907, and
- k) pM1C25, which was deposited on 4 August 1998 at the CNCM under the No. I-2062.

86. (Previously presented): Recombinant vector according to claim 85,
wherein the vector is plasmid pDP428, which was deposited on 28 January 1997 at the
CNCM under the No. I-1818.

87-147 (Cancelled).